[28th November 1928

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I know whether the Government will be pleased to place the copy of the report when it is received on the table of this House ? "

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" I can give the information now. There is a division of pensioners and those pensioners who are drawing Rs. 10 or less, must be paid on the 2nd or the 3rd working day, and those getting above Rs. 10 on the 4th and 5th working days."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I know the reason why this is being done ? "

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" In order to avoid congestion in the treasury ; when all pensioners come on the same day, many have to go away without having to draw their pension. As it was thought to be a convenient arrangement, this procedure was adopted."

Mr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva :—" May I know whether the Government will be pleased at least to direct that the pensioners are paid on the 2nd or 3rd of the month ? "

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" I am afraid, it is impossible. As the staff is limited, and the work is heavy if the work is not divided, it simply means that pensioners will come and have to go away without getting their pension. If the work is spread over four or five days, some pensioners will be paid on the earlier days and others subsequently."

Railways

Alleged inconveniences of third-class lady passengers in Bengal and Nagpore and other railways.

*767-A *Q.*—Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received complaints about the difficulty and inconvenience experienced by the lady passengers specially in third-class in the Bengal and Nagpur Railway, Madras and Southern Mahratta and South Indian Railway Companies in purchasing tickets along with men ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that ladies in many cases are being cheated by others as they are not themselves able to purchase tickets ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that tickets are sold just a few minutes before the arrival of the train both for men and women at the same place and generally by one clerk ; and

(*d*) whether the Government have taken any action in the matter by addressing the Railway Board ?

A.—The Government have not received any complaints of the kind referred to. The matter is one which the hon. Member might bring to the notice of the Local Advisory Committees of the Railways concerned.